1947/1948

45842/154/16

MIDDLE EAST

45842/154/16

PALESTINE

1

CLOSED UNTIL VARIOUS DATES UP TO 1979

POLICY.

ARAB REACTIONS TO UNSCOP

C.O. 733/482/7

Previous

See also Top Secret Annexe

Subsequent

R53. 5/1

POLICY.

FILE A

51402/780 3,000 11/47 N.M.Ltd.

C.I.N.

1. Arab Higher Committee — 4.10.47

2. P.S. 10. Downing St — 5.10.47

2

(1) and (2) are telegrams to Sofs and PM respectively from the Arab Higher Committee.

? No acknowledgment is required.

W M Mathieson
6/10.

R.D.M. Smith

So far as M.E.D. is concerned Sofs & P.M. certainly need not acknowledge. Perhaps Zu would wish to inform No. 10. if they are expecting an answer.

D Smith 9/10

Afterwards pl. refer to Mr. Holmer to prepare a dft saying Gt. to HCr. sending for information ~~confidential~~ Tel text of the identical messages, and indicating to whom addressed, concluding that no reply has been sent

B. 8/10

Mr. Mathieson.
I attach a dft. as above.

W M Mathieson 10/10

Holmes 9/10 at once

3

To. Palestine – Saving No. 2083 – 16 OCT 1947

4 Arab Association Nairobi – received 7. 10. 47

5 A. Gov Aden – 5. 10. 47

6 F.O. E 9214/3066/88 – 8. 10. 47

7 F.O. E 9051/951/31 – 11. 10. 47

(4) is a tel. from the Arab. Assocn., Nairobi, to S.of S., protesting against U.N.S.C.O.P.

? Recirc. to E. African Dept.

(5) is report of short Moslem anti-U.N.S.C.O.P. strike in Aden.

(6) is report of anti-U.N.S.C.O.P. strike in Beirut.

(7) is text of protest by right-wing Iraqi party, the Hizb al Istiqlal, handed in at the Embassy, Baghdad.

? Copies of (5) and (7) to Palestine.

Pettomer 17/10.

Put to Mr
[illegible] 17/10
at once.

8 Moslem Brotherhood (through P.M.) – 15. 10. 47

9 Arab Higher Committee (through F.O.) – 16. 10. 47

(8) is a threatening telegram from Moslem Brotherhood (Mustafa Momen) to the P.M.

(9) is the same as (1) + (2), addressed this time to F.O.

? Put to Mr. Pettomer 22/10.

[illegible] at once
23/X

10 F.O. E9340/3/93 — 11.10.47

BR

30/A
atonce

AD

F.O. E9193/951/31. — 5/10/47

F.O. E9427/951/31 — 21/10/47

12 is quite interesting. Michel Chiha is a person of consequence in Beirut.

? Put by. Pettomer 7/11.

11/11
atonce.

NO

13 Arab Students League in Britain — 6.12.47.

14 CRO — 4.12.47

? put by. Pettomer 13/12.

16/12
atonce.

5 Zanzibar tel no. 303 Conf — 13.12.47

? Put by. P.C. Wormer 18/12.

E.M.R. Matheson 18/12
at once.

16 F.O. (E 11640/951/31) — 15.12.47

Repercussions in Persia.

? put by. P.C. Wormer 22/12

E.M.R. Matheson? 22/12
at once.

AD

17 Gov. Aden. Sav. no 1029 — 20.12.47

Reactions in Aden.

1. Mr. ~~Harford~~, and
2. Mr. Matheson, should see.

? put by, P.C. Wormer 30/12
or should it be forwarded.

18 F.O. (E 11640/951/31) — [illegible]

Put by

E.M.R. Matheson? 6/1
at once.

1948

6

19 F.O. (E12410/11607/65) — 5.1.48.

20 F.O. (E.12411/11280/65 — 5.1.48

(19) is an Arab League proclamation against Partition.

(20) – the Iraqis undertake not to attack Palestine while we are there, but decline to stop recruitment of volunteers.

? put by. P Ottomer 7/1

E M Rathcessi 8/1

at once.

✓

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

, 194 .

34705—2

No. 453 (236/167/47)

8

HIS Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Bagdad presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy,

Bagdad.

11th December, 1947.

C. JAN 1948
C. O. REGY

Reference to previous correspondence:

Bagdad telegram No. 1267, paragraphs 2 and 3.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note from Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bagdad, No. 2183/2183/5/19667 of 9th December, 1947.	Palestine situation.

Translation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Political Department,
Western Section.

GH 2183/2183/5/19667

9th December, 1947.

Charge d'Affaires,

I have received your letter No. 637 of the 3rd December, 1947, addressed to His Excellency the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have the honour to inform you that, in spite of the delicate situation which confronts the cause of the Arabs of Palestine, the Iraqi Government neither intend to undertake action which will prejudice the position of His Majesty's Government, nor to despatch military units into Palestine while British Forces remain stationed there.

2. At the same time, however, I wish to make clear to you that the Iraqi Government, in face of the rising tide of Iraqi feeling, which you will not have failed to notice, and the critical situation, are unable to undertake to close the recruiting offices or to prevent Iraqis who may infiltrate into Palestine to help their Arab brethren there as volunteers to defend and protect them from possible Zionist aggression.

Believe me, etc.

Abdul Illah Hafidh.

The Under Secretary
of State

19
10

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

Jan , 194 .

8

34705—2

C. O. REGY

JC.

No. 1006

(1530/29/47)

11

His Majesty's Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copies of the undermentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
CAIRO.

24th December, 1947.

Reference to previous communication:

Reference Cairo telegram 2349 of 18.12.47.

Description of Enclosure.

Name, Date, etc.	Subject.
Communiqué issued by the Heads of Arab States in Cairo 17th December 1947. Translation from "Ahram" of 18th December 1947.	

(21106) Wt.8573/807 5,000 4/42 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES IN CAIRO 17TH DECEMBER, 1947.

TRANSLATION FROM "AHRAM" OF 18TH DECEMBER.

"When the aims of Imperialism and the greed of the Zionists met over the setting up of a National Home for the Jews in Palestine, the Arabs of that country were plunged into calamity, since they had forcefully imposed on them groups of foreigners coming from the East and West with their own languages, customs and social systems. These groups lost no time in despoiling the Arabs in every way possible of their lands and their sources of existence. Today, they are despoiling them of their very fatherland. The mandatory power has helped these intruders and given them the means to set up a trained army which in recent years has been transformed into an instrument of terror and has spread with its evil deeds disaster over the whole country. On many occasions and in many ways and at numerous conferences the Arab Governments have drawn the attention of the mandatory power and the other powers to the evil of revolt in Palestine and have shown that the evil results of the mandatory power's and Zionists' action would lead to wars and strife between Moslems and Christians on the one hand and the Jews on the other, which might spread to the whole East and last for long years.

When the situation deteriorated in Palestine and the mandatory power found itself unable to safeguard security and order, the question of the mandate was submitted to the United Nations Organisation. During the two sessions of the General Assembly the Arab delegations carried out their duty to the utmost, demonstrated the rights of the Arabs and the aggression of the Zionists, and warned against the evil consequences if the Assembly ignored the principles of right and democracy. But most unfortunately, the Assembly did ignore those very principles which its charter guarantees, and recommended the partition of Palestine and the setting up of a Jewish State there. In doing this, it has deprived a whole people of its right to decide its own fate and has contravened against every principle of right and justice. Having drawn up boundaries for the partition, it has made it impracticable to enforce and has created thereby a permanent source of disturbance and strife. It has introduced what it calls the "Jewish State" into the most fertile Arab lands and in a part of the country which contains the largest and most important sources of economic wealth. It has placed half-a-million Moslem and Christian Arabs under the yoke and sword of terror of the Zionists whose number is not greater than that of the Arabs, whom they wish to put under the intruding power of the Zionists, and this after the mandatory power has deprived the Arabs of their arms and enabled the Zionists to trample on them.

This unjust situation has aroused the indignation of the whole of the East, or rather of the majority of the people of the world. The Arab and Moslem peoples have risen together to fight falsehood, to establish right, and to defend the Palestine Arabs, weak in their own land, and the homes of their fathers and grandfathers. The Governments of the countries of the Arab League stand united by the side of their peoples in their struggle to defend their Arab brethren from injustice and to enable them to defend themselves and to achieve the independence and unity of Palestine.

At their meetings in Cairo, the chiefs and representatives of these Governments have decided that partition is fundamentally null and void. In accordance with the will of their peoples they have decided to take radical measures which, with God's help, will bring to nought the iniquitious partition plan and will ensure victory

/for

- -

for the right of the Arabs and which will provide for all eventualities.

The world will see that it is impossible to conquer the Arabs by force from wherever it may come. It will see that when the Arabs insist on the principles of right and justice and work against the consequences of the Zionist adventure, they are actually preserving right and justice for all people, in the desire to keep the causes of trouble and revolt far from the Middle East, and in their anxiety to maintain peace in that area.

The world will also see that those who have refused to profiteer of the consequences for the million of Palestine will alone bear the responsibility for the disturbances and trouble which they have created and whose outcome no-one can foresee.

Long passions and prejudices have increased even to United Nations Organisation and since the doors of right and justice have been shut in their face, the Arabs have resolutely decided to embark on the fight which has been forced upon them and to continue in it until, with God's help, victory is achieved. Thus will the principles of United Nations Organisation be established on a sound foundation and the principles of justice and equality reign in the Holy Land among all the people".

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies

18

14

E 12112/951/31

SECRET

18

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

23rd. Dec., 194).

34265—1

RECEIVED
29 DEC 1947
C.O. REGY.

SECRET 15

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO
(BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE)

No. 903
19th December,1947

D: 7.10 a.m. 20th December,1947

Repeated to: Amman No. 574
Bagdad No. 1192
Beirut No. 785
Cairo No. 2286
Damascus No.643
Jedda No. 531

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to British Middle East Office Cairo telegram No. 903 of 19th December repeated for information to Amman, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus and Jedda.

Your telegram No. 596.

It is evident from Salih Jabr's statement to Clayton that Arabs believed that fact of some Dominions voting against them showed that we had done nothing to influence their opinion the other way, that former is under some misconception as to the position of the Dominions.

2. Position is that the Dominions are sovereign states completely independent of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. India and Pakistan , voted with the Arabs against partition, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa voted for partition. In conformity with attitude which we have adopted throughout, we did not attempt to influence attitude of any of them one way or the other.

3. We do not want to pick on this point of Salih Jabr's but you could speak in foregoing sense if suitable opportunity presents itself or if you find other Arab leaders labouring under similar misconception.

4. [British Middle East Office Cairo only] Please pass to the Embassy as my telegram No. 2286.

G G G G

17
16

Saving.

From: The Governor, Aden.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date 20 December, 1947.

No. 1029 Saving

(File No.C/135/46)

United Nations Decision on Palestine.

I forward herewith for disposal a copy of a letter addressed to the British Agent, Mukalla by the Acting State Secretary of the Qu'aiti State regarding the United Nations decision on Palestine.

RE
30 JAN 1947
C.O.

MM.

Copy of letter from the Acting State Secretary, Mukalla, to the British Agent, Mukalla.

---

1. I am directed to inform you by His Excellency the Regent to His Highness the Sultan that the people of Hadhramaut in general have made a representation to him, strongly protesting against the United Nations Organisation's decision to partition Palestine in two States - one Jewish and the other Arab.

2. They declare that the decision of partition is a serious crime against humanity and would lead to disturb the peace of the whole world, and would not be enforced as long as the Arab world exists.

3. The Mukalla Government, being of an Arab State, join the public in the protest and request that it may be conveyed to the Headquarters of the United Nations Organization.

MM.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. 16

18

E 11640/951/31

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

15th. Dec., 1947.

RECEIVED
10 DEC 1947
C. O. REGY

34417—1

No. 478
(478/22/47)

British Embassy,
Tehran.
30th November, 1947.

10 DEC 1947
C. O. REGY

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the important newspaper, Ettela'at, in a leading article published on November 26th on the subject of the partition of Palestine wrote as follows:-

"The decision of the Palestine Committee on partition has been the hardest blow yet struck at U.N.O. and at the confidence which the world's oppressed peoples had placed in it. The partition is a flagrant breach of the fundamental rights of the Arabs. Britain, by protecting the Jews and facilitating their immigration, has ignored the sacrifices made by Arabs in the first World War and has broken her promise. The U.S.A., a pretended adherent to anti-colonization, and herself under the political and financial influence of the Jews, has openly taken the British side. Russia, also, the defender of small and oppressed nations' rights, has agreed to this injustice. All the big powers have agreed to set up a danger point in the Eastern Mediterranean at the expense of the Arabs. Iranians are in sympathy with the protest made by the Arabs."

2. Apart from the above, there has been little press comment on the decision of the Palestine Committee. But prominence has been given to news about Palestine and a good deal was made of the fact that the Persian delegate had voted against partition, thus supporting Iran's Muslim brethern.

3. I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassadors at Washington, Moscow and Cairo, to the U.K. Delegation to the United Nations at New York, to His Majesty's Representatives at Bagdad and Kabul and to the British Middle East Office.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Sgd.) J. H. LE ROUGETEL.

The Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

15
20

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

COPY FOR REGI

Code

FROM ZANZIBAR (Sir V. Glenday)

D. 13th December, 1947.
R. 13th " " 13.15 hrs.

17 DEC 1947 REGISTRY

No. 303 Confidential

Palestine Day was celebrated here by the closing of shops, stoppage of motor transport and mild form of strike. A meeting of 5,000 to 6,000 persons was held in recreational park and was addressed by an Indian Legislative Councillor, the editor of the Zanzibar Voice (both Ismailis) and a Saudi Arab and others. Their speeches, which were well received, were of racial character. Indian speakers in particular, after dwelling on the iniquities of partition, stressed that the supremacy of the white man was on the decline and that it was now the turn of the other races to take their place. Saudi Arab attacked America and proposed that wharf labourers should refuse to work American ships. Proceedings were entirely orderly and I anticipate no trouble.

14

Inward Telegram to Commonwealth Relations Office

21

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS.

27783

PLOTTED TO EXTERNAL DEPARTMENT

CODE

FROM: Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

D. 7.40 p.m. 2nd December 1947
R. 11.50 p.m. 2nd December 1947

RECEIVED
5 DEC 1947
C. O. REG.

IMPORTANT
No. 1260

U.N.O. decision re Palestine.

School and Bazaar at Bahrein closed today. There have been minor demonstrations by school boys against Jewish shops, houses, etc. It is reported that, following example of other Muslim countries, Bazaar will be closed for 3 days.

Copy to Colonial Office

Arab Reactions matters 19/12

13

22

CAN THIS BE
DEALT WITH
OFFICIALLY PLEASE

D Smith 9/12

Arab Student's League in Britain,

c/o Salem Khamis,

412, Whitton Avenue,

Greenford.

Middlesex.

6th December, 1947.

Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Arab Student's League in Britain during the emergency meeting on Palestine held in London today.

Yours truly,

SALEM KHAMIS
(Secretary)

نداء الطلاب العرب فى بريطانيا الى العالم العربى

ان الطلاب العرب فى بريطانيا المؤمنين بعدالة قضيتهم فى فلسطين ، المقدرين لمسئولياتهم نحوها ونحو غيرها من قضاياهم ، العالمين بالصعوبات التى تكتنف العرب فى نضالهم من اجل حقهم وحريتهم ووحدتهم ، المصممين على الاستمرار فى هذا النضال حتى النهايه يرون فى موقف الامم المتحده الاخير واذا لابسط حقوق الانسان فى تقرير مصيره والعيش امنا فى موطنه ، ومناصرة للباطل على الحق ، والعدوان على الحريه ،

وهم اذ يشكرون الموقف المشرف للامم التى لم تصوت للتقسيم وتمزيق الارض المقدسة وتسليم معظمها لقمة سائغة اولى لحفنة من شذاذ الافاق واسيادهم من طغاة الاستعمار ، يسجلون على الدول الكبرى اتفاقها للمرة الوحيده فى تاريخ هيئة الامم المتحده اتفاقا فى الضغط على الامم الصغيره واستعمال كل الوسائل غير المشروعه لحملها على الانزلاق وراءها فى هوة سحيقة من عمى الضمير والاستهتار بمبادىء العدل والحق .

والطلاب العرب حين يسجلون ما يسجلون انما يفعلون ذلك لا للتظلم والتشكى ، فما هذا بنافع مع هذه الدول التى الفت ان لا تسمع الا للقوه ولا تذعن الا للتهويش ، ولكنهم يفعلون ذلك لكى يقولوا كلمتهم وقد وقفت الامة العربيه عند مفترق الطرق تلك الكلمه الصريحه التى يمليها وعيهم وتقديرهم لمسئولياتهم وتصميمهم على النضال .

اننا نرى ان العرب حتى الان قالوا ما فيه الكفايه وان الوقت الان وقت العمل ، وقت العمل المنظم الواعى المخلص المصمم ولذلك فنحن نتوجه الى العرب فى كافة اقطارهم راجين ان يدعوا الاقوال والخطب والمظاهرات والاضطرابات والمنازعات جانبا وان يقوموا الى العمل المثمر . والعمل المثمر فى راينا اقتصادى ودفاعى .

اما فى ميدان الاقتصاد فمقاطعة لليهود اينما كانوا ومهما كانوا واستغناء عن الكماليات المستوردة من الغرب ومقاطعة للدول الكبرى وحرمانها من امتيازاتها الاقتصادية فى بلاد العرب وتنمية منظمة للاقتصاد العربى بحيث تتوطد دعائمه ويسد حاجات البلاد فى اقصر وقت مستطاع وما يستتبعه هذا كله من اصلاحات اجتماعية ضروريه .

واما فى ميدان الدفاع فلجوء الى السلاح يذاد به عن حياض الوطن وبرهنة للعالم ان العرب يعنون ما يقولون واننا لم نخرج الا بعد ان احرجتنا دول الاستعمار وصنائعها من غزاة الصهيونيين .

والطلاب العرب فى بريطانيا ، وهم يسجلون شكرهم لملوكهم ورؤساءهم وزعمائهم لعملهم فى سبيل قضايا العرب عامه وفلسطين خاصه يرون ان ما وقع كان الحصاه الوحيد والممكن للسياسات القديمه ومنازعات الشوارع والقصور وان الساعة قد دقت لتوطيد العزم على التكاتف فى نضال يجب ان لا يقود الا الى ميتة مشرفه او حياة عزيزه فلا مجال بعد اليوم لحلول وسط ولقد كفانا ما لقيناه من سياسة اللين واللباقه ..... و..... و.....

وفى راينا ان الشباب العرب فى كافة اقطارهم هم سدنة قضيتهم المؤتمنون عليها العاملون لها ولذلك نتوجه الى زملائنا فى دنيا العرب راجين ان ينظموا صفوفهم وان يحتلوا مكانهم فى الطليعه ناسين اختلافاتهم موجهين وجوههم قبل امانيهم والموت فى سبيلها واننا لموقنون بانهم فاعلون •

ثم اننا نتوجه بقلوبنا الى اخواننا عرب فلسطين مؤكدين انهم ليسوا وحدهم فى نضالهم الدامى وان العرب فى مختلف ديارهم من وراءهم يشدون منهم الازر ، ولكن هذا لايحجب عن اعيننا حقيقة ان قضية فلسطين لن تحل الا فى سهول فلسطين وجبالها فعلى عرب فلسطين ان يعتمدوا على ايمانهم وحقهم فى عمل سريع حاسم •

واخيرا فاننا ونحن المؤمنون بامتنا وحقنا ، نضع نفوسنا وجهودنا تحت تصرف امتنا مؤكدين استعدادنا لتلبية اول نداء امين ان لا نسمح لتاريخنا المقبل ان يسجل علينا هزيمة لن يغتفرها لنا اجدادنا بله احفادنا •

لندن فى ٦ كانون اول ١٩٤٧

رابطة الطلاب العرب فى بريطانيا

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE ARAB STUDENT'S LEAGUE IN BRITAIN AT THEIR EMERGENCY MEETING HELD IN LONDON ON 6.12.47.

The Arab Students in Britain wish to emphasise their very earnest attitude with regard to the present struggle in Palestine. They further wish to convey to their fellow citizens in the Arab countries a profound expression of faith in the Arab masses of which they form an integral part. The Arab Students are by no means blind to the tremendous difficulties which lie ahead; but they are determined to take part in the struggle of their compatriots and share their fate. In taking the following resolutions they wish to make it perfectly clear that they hold themselves in complete readiness to be called up for active participation at any time during their scholastic career.

1. The Arab Student's League emphatically reject the partition plan for Palestine. To divide a country between its inhabitants and an alien minority is contrary to all human rights and to the principle of self-determination.

2. We deplore and condemn the immoral and illegal methods which some of the greater powers used to coerce smaller nations and force them to vote against their own conscience. When the Charter of the U.N.O. was first drawn up, there existed a faint hope in our hearts that the present Assembly might prove different from the late League of Nations. We regret to announce, however, that we have now been completely convinced that the U.N.O. has effectively ceased to be a body for the guarantee of justice and equity.

3. We should like to express our deep felt gratitude to all the nations who opposed partition. In view of the pressure mentioned above their attitude is worthy of the highest esteem.

4. The Arab Student's League have always held the belief that the future of Palestine will be determined - not at

Lake Success or New York - but on the hills and in the plains of Palestine itself. Now that the time for words has ended and the hour for positive action has struck, we feel confident that every single Arab - whether in an official or private capacity - will do the utmost in his power for the fulfilment of the common aim.

5. This is one case, in the short history of the United Nations, in which the cause of morality and justice has been sacrificed in the interests of power politics, and it may well be the dangerous precedent to a subversive trend which should be the concern of all freedomOloving peoples. We therefore look to free individuals all over the world to give at least their moral support to the Arab people in the struggle which has been forced upon them in their attempt to preserve the unity of Palestine.

6. Since it is desirable that armed conflict between the Arabs and the British should be avoided; since such a conflict is bound to come if the British Government remain responsible for keeping the peace in Palestine, and since the Arabs will be fully justified in considering the British Government as enforcing partition if they suppress any Arab action against partition, the Arab students in Britain urge the British Government to terminate the mandate immediately.

We urge the Arab States and appeal to the British people to exert the necessary pressure for the immediate termination of the mandate.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

12

E 9427/951/31

27

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

21st. Oct., 1947.

RECEIVED
23 OCT 1947
C. O. REGY

34265—1

British Legation,
B E I R U T.

34/296/47.

6th October, 1947.

Dear Department,

With reference to our telegram No. 700 of October 2nd concerning local reactions to the Colonial Secretary's statement on Palestine, we enclose a copy of an article in French by Michel Chiha (banker, newspaper owner and our local "Eminence Grise") which appeared in the newspaper "Le Jour" of Friday, October 3rd under the heading "Devant le Noeud Gordien".

Michel Chiha expressed similar views in conversation with a member of the Legation staff a few days prior to its publication. He added that he earnestly hoped that the British would not withdraw their influence from the Middle East, and that Britain would not go on accepting to be treated as World Power Number 3.

In case our Personality List has not yet been printed we attach for ease of reference an extract covering Michel Chiha.

Yours ever,

Chancery.

BRITISH LEGATION BEIRUT

Eastern Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

35. - Michel Chiha. - A Roman Catholic banker of Beirut, born 1893. A member of the Boar of Administration of the Banque de Syrie. Was a Deputy in 1926 at which time he assisted in the drafting of the Lebanese Constitution.- A brother-in-law of the President and relative of Henri Pharaon; has long been power behind the Constitutional Party. Virtually directs the policy of Henri Pharaon and in major issues is always consulted by the President of whom however he has of late become critical. The local "Eminence grise". Formerly an advocate of a Christian Lebanon protected against Moslem domination is now in favour of the maintenance of the Lebanon as at present constituted as favouring the continued influence of his family and the exclusion of their rival Emile Eddé. He is owner of Le Jour (towhich he contributes a signed article daily) and, until it ceased publication, of the "Eastern Times". A man of wide culture (Chiefly Latin) retiring and studious by nature and deeply religious, he is politically far-seeing though somewhat handicapped by his aloofness. A Jesuit in outlook. Though imbued with French culture and in favour of close relations (particularly economic) with France on the basis of independence, he is pro-British and has at intervals written statesman-like articles in his newspaper (e.g. in connexion with Anglo-Egyptian dispute). Anti-Zionist and anti-Communist. While disposed to cooperate with neighbouring Arab States on the basis of the Arab League, he is fundamentally suspicious of Moslem influence - a sentiment which colours his whole political philosophy - and his pro-British sympathies are tempered by some distrust of British pro-Moslem policy.

A shrewd and cautious financier; respected but not popular.

Extract from "Le Jour" of 3rd October, 1947.

Devant le noeud gordien.

L'Angleterre n'imposera pas, par ses seuls moyens une solution politique en Palestine "par la force des armes".

Si une solution devait etre imposée par la force "avec la participation d'autres pays", l'Angleterre resterait juge des formes et de l'étendue du recours à la force.

Ce langage raisonnable ne suffira pas à redresser une longue erreur.

Alors que, pendant vingt-cinq ans, c'est la force seule qui, en faveur du sionisme, a prévalu en Palestine, l'Angleterre ne veut plus aujourd'hui assumer toute seule la responsabilité de la force. Elle en a assez. Mais le mal est fait et nous voilà devant le noeud gordien. Y a-t-il apparemment un autre moyen que la force pour le trancher?

Il devient relativement aisé de définir la position actuelle de l'Angleterre. En dehors d'un accord plus qu'improbable entre Arabes et Juifs, l'Angleterre ne pourrait théoriquement rester seule en Palestine qu'avec le statu quo or, le statu quo n'est évidemment qu'un aspect de la force; les choses étant ce qu'elles sont il semble donc qu'il faille aussi l'exclure.

Bientot il deviendra tout à fait clair qu'après s'etre intéressés puissamment, mais de loin, à la Palestine, il faudra que les Etats-Unis s'y intéressent de plus près, il ne suffit pas en effet de vouloir une solution, il faut la rendre possible.

Pour les Etats-Unis l'heure des responsabilités en Palestine va sonner. Et ce n'est que justice de le leur rappeler. Si les Etats-Unis ne sont pas prets à décider sur les lieux de la revendication des Juifs et du droit des Arabes il faut qu'ils cessent de se meler de l'aventure et de peser dans la balance. L'élémentaire raison veulent cela.

Et les Anglais, de leur coté, seraient tout à fait fous de se laisser acculer à devenir définitivement ce que les circonstances et leur complaisance envers les Juifs ont fait d'eux; des martyrs sans la foi.

Un proverbe de chez nous dit que "la guerre avec les longues-vues est facile". Que les Américains viennent donc en Palestine vérifier la chose et s'exercer à refouler les Arabes autrement que par des discours, pour mettre à leur place des Juifs! L'avenir jugera comme elle le mérite cette-téméraire entreprise.

Colonial Office.

E 9193/951/31

SECRET

SECRET

31

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

5th. Nov., 1947.

34265—1

SECRET

32

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Evans
No. 700 D. 6.05 p.m. 2nd October 1947.

2nd October 1947. R. 8.40 p.m. 2nd October 1947.

Repeated to U.K. Del. New York (Foreign Office please pass as my telegram No. 17)
Cairo B.M.E.O. (Cairo please pass as my telegram No. 153)

Bagdad)
Amman)
Damascus) Saving
Jerusalem)
Jedda)

SECRET

Palestine; Reaction to Colonial Secretary's speech.

Lebanese Prime Minister whom I saw on October 1st said he welcomed the statement and could only congratulate His Majesty's Government on their policy. The Lebanese Government were, however, unlikely to make any official comment until the meeting of the Arab League Council on October 7th. On that occasion he might refer to the statement in his inaugural speech.

2. Riad Bey said that in his opinion if it became necessary for His Majesty's Government to withdraw the British Administration and forces the situation in Palestine might develop in one of two ways. Either the Jews, when they found themselves face to face with the Arabs would become less intransigeant (in which case the modus vivendi might be found) or more likely there would be serious clash as in India. He himself hoped that a solution would be found whereby something like the statu quo could be maintained. He believed (although he could not say so publicly) that this would be satisfactory from the Arab point of view provided immigration were limited (repeat limited).

3. The President of the Republic with whom I discussed the question briefly on September 30th has clearly been too pre-occupied with local politics to give the Colonial Secretary's speech his serious attention. His first reaction was however that it would be welcomed by the Arabs although they would prefer His Majesty's Government to solve the Palestine problem before withdrawing.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York].

rrrrrr

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies

33.

E 9340/3/93

R. 342

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

11th October, 1947.

8

33592

RECEIVED
14 OCT 1947
C. O. REGY

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BAGDAD.

No. 350
(512/118/47).

25th September, 1947.

Sir,

No Trace

In continuation of Mr. Busk's despatch No. 341 (512/98/47) of the 18th September 1947, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a memorandum delivered to this Embassy on the 20th September 1947 by the National Democratic Party. This memorandum was adopted at a public meeting of the Party on the 13th September 1947.

2. The National Democratic Party is a left-wing Party without direct Communist affiliations, which had one member in Nuri Said's caretaker government formed in the autumn of 1946. The meeting is reported to have been attended by about 2,000, but the Oriental Counsellor, who attended, considers this a considerable exaggeration. The only Minister who attended was the Minister for Justice and apart from a few tribesmen and urban workers the audience was composed of students. The speeches, which were long and wearisome, attacked Zionism "Imperialism" and Greater Syria in equal proportions. There were also attacks on Arab Governments, unspecified, which were described as clients of Imperialism.

3. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the British Middle East Office.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

(Sgd.) G. C. PELHAM.

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

35

COPY.

Translation.

No.240.

Headquarters,
The National Democractic Party,
Bagdad.

17th September, 1947.

To: His Honour the Charge d'Affaires,
British Embassy,
Bagdad.

My dear

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the protest adopted at the general meeting held by the National Democratic Party, to discuss the question of Palestine, at the Garden of King Faisal II Hall in the evening of Saturday, 13th September, 1947, for favour of submission to your esteemed government.

U.E.

(Sgd.) Kamil al Chadirchi,

President,
National Democratic Party.

COPY.

Translation.

Copy of the Decision adopted at the General Meeting Held by the National Democratic Party at the Garden of King Faisal II Hall in the evening of Saturday, 13th September, 1947.

Those present at the general meeting held to-day by the National Democratic Party very strongly resent the recommendations of the United Nations Organisation Fact-Finding Commission embodied in the reports submitted by both the majority and minority of the Commission, and consider that the partition of Palestine, the setting up of a Jewish State in any part of it, and the other recommendations, constitute usurpation of their home, an aggression against their people, a denial of their rights, and a neglect of their racial,historic and religious ties in their country which they very dearly defend. Therefore, they have decided to use all means within their power with a view to preventing the realisation of this Zionist imperialistic scheme and every other scheme which do not recognize Palestine as an Arab independent democratic State, and demand the immediate suspension of immigration to Palestine and the definite prohibition of the transfer of lands to the Zionists.

This gathering of the sons of Iraq call upon the United Nations Organisation to disregard the report of the Fact-Finding Commission which does not comply with the principles of its Charter and to endeavour to ensure these principles by admitting the right of the Arabs for sovereignty in their home, Palestine. Peace in this land, the reputation of the United Nations Organisation and the

/ taking

taking pride by Arab countries of its membership, are all now in the scale and depend upon the justice and equity which the decision of the United Nations Organisation may embody.

On the other hand, this large gathering of the sons of Iraq ask the Arab governments to endeavour seriously, individually and collectively, and in their Arab League to frustrate the manoeuvres of the Anglo-American-Zionist imperialism, and to submit the case of Palestine to the Security Council immediately, with a view to preventing the adoption of a decision prejudicial to the right of the Arabs, and to endeavour to take such urgent measures against Britain and America as will remove any doubt by these two states, which support Zionism, as to the preparedness of the Arabs to resist this oppressive aggression against them with all the force they command, a force which should be considered in view of the strategic and economic importance of their countries.

This general meeting wishes to announce to the world the intention of the Arabs everywhere to support Arab Palestine in repelling any aggression against it and to prevent any usurpation of its lands.

Long live Palestine Arab and independent.

---oOo---

W. A. C. Mathieson, Esq.,
Colonial Office

E9292/951/31

38

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Office,

16th. Oct., 1947.

34265 I

CABLE WIRELESS

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E 3292

24 OCT 1947

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Circuit.	Clerk's Name.	Time Received.	
			Page 2 Cd 3

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10, DOWNING STREET, S.W.1

Mr Mathieson

41

PRIVATE SECRETARY

Colonial Office

The attached communication addressed to the Prime Minister is transmitted to you to be dealt with in whatever manner is considered appropriate by the Department concerned. It refers to previous correspondence which was forwarded to you on.....

1. No acknowledgment has been sent from here.

---

2. A plain acknowledgment has been sent from here, adding that the communication has been forwarded to your Department.

---

3. A copy of the acknowledgment which has been sent from here is attached.

Date 15th October, 1947

pay

s. ____ d.

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TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

No. 129

OFFICE STAMP

PARLIAMENT ST. B.O.
13 OCT 47
S.W.1

42

15/10

From

SQ 39 1.57 CHELSEA B 534

To

MR CLEMENT ATTLEE THE PRIME MINISTER 10 DOWNING ST

Th. ADDIS

SW 1

R 17/10

(1)

AS THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HAS REACHED A MOST CRITICAL AND DANGEROUS STAGE I ON BEHALF OF THE MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD WISH TO EXPRESS THE FOLLOWING FACTS CONCERNING THE PROBLEM IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE FACTS AND TO THROW THE GREATEST WEIGHT POSSIBLE ON THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE DEMANDS STOP 1 WE ARE IMPATIENTLY AWAITING YOUR FULFILMENT OF THE LATEST DECLARATION MADE AT THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION BY MR CREECH JONES ANNOUNCING YOUR INTENTION TO WITHDRAW BRITISH TROOPS AND ADMINISTRATION FROM PALESTINE STOP 2 WE HOLD BRITAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF THE PALESTINE PROBLEM BECAUSE SHE HELPED THE ZIONIST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN PALESTINE STOP WE THEREFORE DEMAND FROM BRITAIN THAT SHE SHALL NOT STAND IN THE PATH OF THE ARABS TO ACHIEVE THE

rC
C

at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.

61916) Wt. 40011/P.3831 12/42 Hw. G.620

139

POST OFFICE

TELEGRAM

Telegraph Office, E.C.1

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

No. 43

PARLIAMENT ST. B.O. OFFICE 13 OC 47 S.W.1

File A/A m

From Sa 591.57 Chelsea 15 534 m

To

Mr Clement Attlee The Prime Minister
10 Downing St Sw 1

(2)

INDEPENDENCE OF PALESTINE STOP = WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT WHILST YOU WERE AMONG THE NATIONS WHICH DEMANDED FREEDOM FOR THE GREEK PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE STATUS AND ALLOW THE MAJORITY TO BE IN POWER ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER YOU HAVE DENIED THE SAME RIGHT TO THE ARABS IN PALESTINE STOP BRITAIN MUST PROVE FOR ONCE IN HER POLICY TOWARDS THE ARAB WORLD THAT SHE STANDS BY THE SIDE OF JUSTICE STOP SHE MUST NOT BOW HER HEAD TO UNITED STATES POLICY AND ITS SUPPORT OF THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE FOR THE SAKE OF GAINING DOLLARS STOP THIS PARTITION SCHEME FORMERLY SUGGESTED SEVERAL TIMES WAS A COMPLETE FAILURE STOP IN ANNOUNCING THAT SHE WILL NOT HAND OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF PALESTINE TO ANY PARTICULAR

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form, at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.

B or C / C

61916) Wt. 40011/P.3831 12/42 Hw. G.620

137

POST OFFICE

TELEGRAM

(31)

No. 44

OFFICE STAMP

PARLIAMENT ST. S.W.1 13 OCT 47 P.O.

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

SQ 59. 1.57 Chelsea. B. 534

From m

To m

Mr. Clement Attlee The Prime Minister
10 Downing St SW1.

COMMUNITY BRITAIN VIOLATES THE SIMPLE BASIS OF JUSTICE AND DEPRIVES THE ARABS WHO WERE AND STILL ARE THE MAJORITY AND REAL OWNERS OF PALESTINE FROM ADMINISTERING THEIR OWN COUNTRY STOP THEREFORE BRITAIN SHOULD HAND OVER ADMINISTRATION TO THE ARABS STOP DURING THE PERIOD OF EVACUATION OF THE BRITISH TROOPS AND ADMINISTRATION BRITAIN SHOULD PREVENT ANY MATERIAL FINANCIAL OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE JEWS FROM OUTSIDE OF PALESTINE ESPECIALLY FROM AMERICA STOP ALLOWANCE OF SUCH HELP WOULD MEAN BRITAIN WAS STABBING THE ARABS IN THE BACK AND THE ARABS WOULD CONSIDER SUCH AN INTOLERABLE ATTITUDE AS AN ACT OF ENMITY STOP THE MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD WHO YOU KNOW AS ANTI-IMPERIALIST CHOLERA AND WHO I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REPRESENT WILL SEND AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT THOSE WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION

(43)

POST OFFICE (L)

No.

OFFICE STAMP

PARLIAMENT ST. B.O. * 13 OC 47 S.W.1

TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

1.57 Chelsea.B. 536 1 45

From PB 9 59 To

Mr. Clement Attlee The Prime Minister
10 Downing St SW1.

AND WILL SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO PROTECT THE ARAB PALESTINE STOP WE ARE HOPING TO HEAR IN THE COMING SPEECH OF THE THRONE THAT THESE DEMANDS ARE FULLY ACHIEVED STOP WE ADVISE BRITAIN FOR ITS OWN BENEFIT NOT TO STAND IN THE FACE OF ARABS AND STING THEM FOR THE SECOND TIME IN PALESTINE AS SHE FORMERLY DID IN EGYPT STOP IT WOULD MEAN A DEFINITE BREAKDOWN OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GT-BRITAIN AND THE ENTIRE ARAB AND ISLAMIC WORLD STOP WE HOPE THAT BRITAIN WILL NOT PUT A MATCH TO FIRE A SECOND CRUSADE-LIKE WAR IN THE 20 TH CENTURY AND THUS AVOID SUCH CURSES FOR THE COMING GENERATION STOP —MUSTAFA MOEMEN REPRESENTATIVE THE MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD +

(113)

10 SW 1 20 TH +

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B or C / C

61916) Wt. 40011/P.3831 12/42 Hw. G.620

61916) Wt. 40011/P.3831 12/42 Hw. G.620

159

The Under Secretary of State
The Colonial Office

(E 9051/951/31) 46

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Reference:—

RECEIVED
14 OCT 1947
C. O. REGY

Copies also sent to:—

Foreign Office,
11 Oct 1947

BRITISH EMBASSY, 47
BAGDAD.

No.341
(512/98/47).

18th September, 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a memorandum which was handed to me on September 15th by the President and Secretary of the Independence Party.

2. This followed on a meeting held by the Party on 11th September to protest against the recommendations of U.N.S.C.O.P. This Party, the Hizb al Istiqlal, is the farthest to the right of Iraqi Parties and its membership consists primarily of supporters of Rashid Ali al Gailani, many of them being ex-internees. The meeting is reported to have been attended by about 850 persons, among them the Prime Minister and the Minister for Social Affairs, which indicates that the Independence Party is meeting with some success in its attempt to exploit the popular resentment aroused by the proposals of U.N.S.C.O.P. The President of the Party made a violent speech, in which he said that, should Britain and America continue to antagonise the Arabs for the sake of the Jews, the Arabs should seek support from any other major power which might be interested in the Middle East.

3. On behalf of the Party the President put forward eight demands to the Arab League:-

(1) Palestine is to be declared an independent Arab state recognised by all other Arab states.

(2) An end must be put to Zionist activities and a siege be made round Palestine from both the land and sea to prevent the infiltration of Zionists into the Holy Land.

(3) All Jews who have entered Palestine or any other Arab state since 1914 are to be considered as temporary immigrants and must be ejected.

(4) Decisive action must be taken to prevent the sale of Arab lands to Jews.

(5) All Arab fighters must be recognised as men of arms entitled to all rights of the soilder.

(6) The opening of recruiting offices in all Arab countries, for the enlistment of all volunteers who wish to fight in Palestine.

(7) Special Trade offices are to be established in order to contact trade circles in

/ countries

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

countries which support the Arab case. This is a preliminary step to the boycotting of British and American goods.

(8) Every effort must be made to disarm the Zionists.

4. Both my visitors, Mohammad Mehdi Kubba and Faiq Samarrai, have a long record of intransigent nationalist politics. The latter was appointed Director of Municipalities by the Rashid Ali Government and was subsequently interned for the greater part of the war period.

5. The interview was short, Kubba made much the same points as are made in the memorandum, but couched them in more conciliatory terms. In reply I made three points.

(a) That the U.N.S.C.O.P. proposals were only recommendations, which would be fully discussed before being adopted by the United Nations Assembly.

(b) That His Majesty's Government could not be compelled even by a decision of United Nations Organisation to carry out any policy, unless His Majesty's Government were convinced of its justice and practicability.

(c) That I was keeping His Majesty's Government fully informed of the state of public opinion in Iraq on the Palestine question.

6. On leaving I was asked whether I would object to the publication of what I had said. I replied that I had no objection. An account of the interview was accordingly published in the Party organ, which gave on the whole a fair picture of what had passed.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

(Sgd.) Douglas L. Busk.

COPY.

Translation.

Headquarters,
Al Istiqlal Party.

Dated: 12th September, 1947.

To: His Honour the Charge d'Affaires,
British Embassy.

Blessed Compliment,

British policy has most bitterly exploited time after time the clear inclination of the Arabs to endeavour to solve their problems by mutual understanding in an atmosphere unclouded by terrorism such as that to which the Zionists have resorted.

The British Government has submitted to this Zionist terrorism and has taken no stringent measures, military or political, to ward it off, nor has it resorted to the use of force, as it did in disarming the Arabs of Palestine when they rose up against Zionist tyranny and imperialistic policy, although they, the Arabs in their rebellion did not go beyond the limits of self-defence against the armed British Forces which most cruelly and harshly aimed at exterminating their just national movement for liberation, a movement to which they had been driven out of despair of reaching an understanding over the solution of their problem. A problem which had been imposed on them by imperialism in spite of international pledges and promises and in contravention of the correct understanding of the right of self-determination, and of justice and humanity.

Britain has neglected all the dangers and the harm resulting from the arming of Zionists. She armed them during the war in order that she might use their aggression as an excuse for this treacherous policy against the Arabs. In this aggressive movement, Great Britain has been joined by

/ the

the Government of the United States of America which also aims at turning Palestine into an imperialist vastion and an open market for her trade in the Middle East. The Government of America, which has exerted great endeavours in the cause of its freedom and in its adherence to the principle of self-determination, has come to join with Britain in this policy. Both Governments have agreed to increase their aggression against the Arabs and to crush down humanitarian principles in all the decisions adopted by them, the latest being the recommendations of the United Nations Organization Fact-Finding Commission.

The people of Iraq, backed by the Arab nation, in view of its long experience of similar organizations since the establishment of the League of Nations and up to the present time, fully realises what such international organizations amount to. It knows that the world is to-day split into two large groups, the first is what is called the Western Democracies led by America and England, and the second is the Eastern Democracies led by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Any decision taken by the first group is considered by the (Iraqi) people as emanating from the Governments of Britain and America themselves and as constituting an act of aggression against Iraq and other Arab countries. It thus becomes the right of these countries to defend themselves against this aggression with all the strength and force at their command. These (reasons) induce these countries to put pressure on their Governments to sever diplomatic and economic relations with these two states and to relinquish the protection of the revenues and installations owned by these two States in the Arab East, and to rally to the

/ support

support of the Arabs of Palestine by bloodshed, as is required by close relations and self-defence.

The thousands of people assembled at the large meeting held to-day by Al Istiqlal Party at Bagdad support this viewpoint, and request Your Excellency to communicate it to your Government in order that it may acquaint itself with the danger which will accrue as a result of its aggressive policy.

U.E.

(Sgd.) Muhammad Hassan Kubba.

President,
Al Istiqlal Party.

Under-Secretary of State 52
for the Colonies
6

SECRET

F.9214/3066/48

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Foreign Office,

8th October, 1947.

8 Wt. 25886/723 10M 10/38 17963—06 F.O.P.

SECRET

53

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No: 1

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Evans
No: 707

D. 6.50.p.m.3rd October 1947

3rd October 1947

R. 9.10.p.m.3rd October 1947

Repeated to Cairo
British Middle East Office Cairo
Bagdad, Saving
Damascus, Saving
Jedda, Saving
Amman, Saving
Jerusalem,Saving

Palestinians, in response to Arab higher Committee's invitation to Beirut and other Lebanese towns, were on strike today. As a result of the compromise between Moslems and Christian Youth Organisations, closing of business premises in Beirut was almost one hundred percent but there were no, (repeat no) demonstrations. Small demonstrations occurred in two provincial centres.

Cairo please pass to British Middle East Office as my telegram No: 159.

X:X:X:

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

COPY FOR REGISTRATION

OCT 1947
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY

Code

54

FROM ADEN (Acting Governor)

D. 5th October, 1947.
R. 5th " " 16.30 hrs.

No. 325 Confidential.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo,
No. 15.

I report for information that on Friday, 3rd October, there was a half day strike of taxi and bus operators accompanied by partial closure of Moslem shops in sympathy with Arabs of Palestine and protest against plan for partition of Palestine. Strike ended after mid-day prayers and there were no (repeat no) incidents.

55

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Printed in England. Aug. 1938. (3,600 pads).

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7 OCT 1947
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WCH2 VQGL65 NAIROBI 112 6 1210

NLT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

LONDON =

MASS MEETING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ARAB ASSOCIATION NAIROBI WAS HELD ON FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER OF ALL MUSLIMS TO PROTEST AGAINST THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMITEE AND THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PASSED QUOTE THE ARABS AND MUSLIMS OF NAIROBI COLONY AND PROTECTORATE

56

Printed in England. Aug. 1938. (3,600 pads). 5/-160

CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED.

CENTRAL TELEGRAPH STATION,
TOWER CHAMBERS,
MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

Received Particulars.

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The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named :—
Prefix Letters and Number of Message, Office of Origin, Number of Words, Date, Time handed in and Official instructions—if any.

OF KENYA STRONGLY PROTEST AGAINST THE PARTITION OF PALESTINE AS PROPOSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMITTEE AND WILL SUPPORT BY ALL MEANS IN THEIR POWER WHATEVER STEPS THE MUSLIM WORLD IN GENERAL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR WILL TAKE FOR PRESERVING THE INTERITY OF PALESTINE AS AN ARAB STATE UNQUOTE = ARAB ASSOCIATION ✠

75872/154/16.

Saving.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of PALESTINE. 57

Date 16 October, 1947.

No. 2083 **Saving.**

I transmit, for your information, the text of identical telegrams received on 4th October by Prime Minister and myself from Arab Higher Committee.

2. Text begins. "Palestine Arabs declared general strike protesting U.N.S.C.O.P. Report and any solution entailing partitioning Palestine or dismemberment any part thereof. We demand termination Mandate, withdrawal British authorities and declaration Palestine an independent Arab State, any other solution will threaten peace throughout Palestine and Middle East. Arab Higher Committee". Text ends.

3. No acknowledgment or reply is being sent from here.

SECER.

75872/154/16/47.

58
3

Wt. 41936/[illegible] 47. 50m. S. & S. Ltd.
Wt. 47799, [illegible] 47. 30m. S. & S. Ltd.

C. O.

Mr. Holmes 9/10

Mr. Mathieson 10/10 at once.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S.

Secretary of State.

C
R. 11 OCT
D. 13 "

Your Reference

DRAFT. Saving. Telegram

No: 2083 Saving.

16 OCT 1947

High Commissioner, Palestine. Jerusalem

I transmit, for your information the text of identical telegrams received on 4th October by Prime Minister and myself from Arab Higher Committee ⊙

2. Text begins ⊙ "Palestine Arabs declared general strike protesting U.N.S.C.O.P. Report and any solution entailing partitioning Palestine or dismemberment any part thereof ⊙ We demand termination Mandate, withdrawal British/

FURTHER ACTION.

British authorities and declaration

Palestine an independent Arab

state, any other solution will

threaten peace throughout Palestine

and Middle East ⊙ Arab Higher

Committee ⊙ Text ends ⊙

3. No acknowledgement or reply has been sent

from here.

Secret.

Mr Matheson

Would you pl consider & advise?

Dunedin
6/10

4

2

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

5th October, 1947.

Dear Smith,

.... I enclose a cable addressed to the Prime Minister from the Arab Higher Committee. No reply has been sent from here. I assume that no reply should be sent but perhaps you would consider what action is required.

Yours sincerely,

A P Rhind

D.M. Smith, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

Printed in England Aug. 1946 (8,000pads)

5/- 152

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62

NO.

SENT OUT

BY 20939

RECEIVED PARTICULARS

VIA IMPERIAL

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CW HXA233 JERUSALEM 57/52 3 2140 HCW/YY

THE PRIME MINISTER LONDON

PALESTINE ARABS DECLARED GENERAL STRIKE PROTESTING UNSCOP REPORT AND ANY SOLUTION ENTAILING PARTITIONING PALESTINE OR DISMEMBERMENT ANY PART THEREOF STOP WE DEMAND TERMINATION MANDATE WITHDRAWAL BRITISH

Enquiry respecting this Telegram should be accompanied by this form. Mark Your Reply VIA IMPERIAL.

Printed in England Aug. 1946 (8,000pads)

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ISSUING OFFICE

64

NO.

R[illegible] PARTICULARS

VIA IMPERIAL

The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named: Prefix Letters and Number of Message, Office of Origin, Number of Words, Date, Time handed in and Official Instructions, if any.

SENT OUT

BY

CW

AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION PALESTINE AN INDEPENDENT ARAB STATE ANY OTHER SOLUTION WILL THREATEN PEACE THROUGHOUT PALESTINE AND MIDDLE EAST -

ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE +

Enquiry respecting this Telegram should be accompanied by this form. Mark Your Reply VIA IMPERIAL.

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CENTRAL TELEGRAPH STATION,
TOWER CHAMBERS,
MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

66
14/E END

No.

Forwarded Particulars.

Received Particulars.

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4 OCT 1947 RECEIVED IN REGISTRY

Palestine

WCH4 HXA233 JERUSALEM 56/51 3 2140 HCW/

COLONIAL OFFICE LONDON =

NOT. NUMBERED.

PALESTINE ARABS DECLARED GENERAL STRIKE PROTESTING UNSCOP REPORT AND ANY SOLUTION ENTAILING PARTITIONING PALESTINE OR DISMEMBERMENT ANY PART THEREOF. ~~STOP~~ WE DEMAND TERMINATION MANDATE, WITHDRAWAL BRITISH AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION PALESTINE AN INDEPENDENT ARAB STATE, ANY OTHER SOLUTION WILL THREATEN PEACE THROUGHOUT PALESTINE AND MIDDLE EAST = ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE ✠

The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named :—
Prefix Letters and Number of Message, Office of Origin, Number of Words, Date, Time handed in, Official instruction, if any.